

Again, thank you, Mr. Matt Bravo, for the service you have given to all of us.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will my friend yield?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with everything the gentleman said. Maybe he is not the best floor director—I have got a pretty good one myself—but he is a very, very good floor director.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, we can maybe disagree on that like we disagree on who has the best crabs, but we will enjoy that disagreement.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I was going to say that one of the problems that I have with Mr. Bravo is that he thinks that Louisiana crabs are better than Maryland crabs, but loyalty is an important aspect of our service.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to join my friend, Mr. SCALISE, the majority whip, and thank Matt Bravo for the leadership that he has given on this floor, and particularly on behalf of my floor staff with whom he has worked very closely, both when he was with Mr. Cantor, with whom I worked very closely, and now Mr. SCALISE, with whom I work closely. We thank him for his service to this House.

Every time I rise, I say, whether it is a Democratic or a Republican staffer who works this floor, they work with all of us, and they work in a way that tries to facilitate the doing of the people's business.

They are not always as successful as they would like to be. It is the fault of the Members, not of the staff. They have good plans that go awry because the Members do not cooperate. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell Matt that I understand that very well.

Mr. Speaker, we want to thank Matt for the very collegial, positive, constructive way in which he has worked with my staff, with the leader's staff, with other staff on this side of the aisle, as well as staff on his side of the aisle to assure that we can, to the best extent possible, work in a constructive way on behalf of the American people.

I am sure that Matt will be as successful in future endeavors as he has been here, and, if so, very, very successful indeed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority whip for yielding me time, and I wish Matt Bravo the very best.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Democratic whip for his kind words and for the way that our offices do work together on those occasions. Frankly, it is most occasions where we are working together on things. Obviously, there are times when we are not; but even in those times, our staffs have a great working relationship and a trust level that is really important to the House getting its business done.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Democratic leader.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I would be honored to yield to the chief deputy whip, Mr. MCHENRY.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is a special pleasure to come and speak to the career of a great public servant, Matt Bravo.

Matt has worked here in the House for 11 years in various roles. He started off as body guy for Leader Cantor when Leader Cantor served as chief deputy whip. In addition to that, he has held various roles in the whip operation, in the leader's office on the Republican side of the aisle, as well as important work on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Matt Bravo has a great sense of humor, a great love for the game of golf. He is much better at the game of golf than he is at his jokes. We love Matt Bravo. We love teasing him. We love giving him a hard time, but we know his true character. We know how he works intensely to see things through, to grind out the votes to get 218 to pass our agenda.

Mr. Speaker, we know Matt will be successful in this next phase of his career. We thank him for his friendship. We thank him for his service to this House. On both sides of the aisle, the respect that he has gained is immense, and we congratulate him on this next phase.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Matt for his service in the people's House, to his government, to the United States of America's people. We will miss him.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize that Matt's lovely wife, Summer, is in the balcony, too, and I thank her for the time that she lent him to us and to this great institution. The best of luck to her family and her future with Matt.

PROTECT BOB MUELLER

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today the Republicans showed their values.

They showed their values in the tax bill that gave 83 percent of the dollars to the upper 1 percent of the economic strata in this country.

They showed their values in giving real estate developers special tax breaks, like President Trump and others, and gave people who are extremely wealthy the opportunity to will more money to their children or whoever they choose than they can today, an \$11 million break.

It has been sad sitting on the Judiciary Committee and watching the Republicans be aiders and abettors of the President in trying to demean the reputation of one of the finest Americans and public servants I have ever had the opportunity to know, Bob Mueller, and probably with the intention of firing

him, something that should wake Republicans up to the fact that our country is in jeopardy.

We shouldn't be doing things that help the Russians get away with efforts to change our elections and interfere with our country's values. America first, Russia last. Protect Bob Mueller.

HEZBOLLAH IS A TERRORIST GROUP AND A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Hezbollah is not only a terrorist group, it is a criminal organization that funds its terror through drug trafficking, arms dealing, and money laundering.

Hezbollah is believed to raise \$4 billion to \$5 billion, annually, through these criminal activities. Tons of Hezbollah cocaine makes its way into the United States every year, but the past administration refused to designate Iran's proxy, Hezbollah, as a criminal organization making it possible to prosecute Hezbollah in the United States.

They repeatedly delayed and denied DEA requests to investigate and prosecute Hezbollah drug dealing and arms dealing networks. Why? So Iran would not back out of the nuclear deal.

In 2016, the White House even let a Hezbollah arms dealer with connections to Putin go free. That is why Representatives COOK, ROS-LEHTINEN, and I sent a letter to the President yesterday urging him to designate Hezbollah as a transnational criminal organization and a kingpin entity.

No more backroom deals for Iran. We must change course quickly. Every day more illegal money flows into Hezbollah's coffers. Hezbollah terrorists and criminals ought to be prosecuted.

And that is just the way it is.

GOP TAX BILL IS THE GREATEST TRANSFER OF WEALTH

(Mr. BEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, the tax bill we passed today has little in common with what Speaker RYAN described to us yesterday. Putting more money into the pockets of working people would be great, but that is not what they wrote this bill to do.

I have grown a business, made payroll every 2 weeks for more than 40 years, and invested many millions of dollars in plant and equipment. I still voted "no," though, because I was just wise enough to realize that without our people, our employees, we have nothing. I would be enthusiastic about a tax bill that actually put more money into their pockets instead of mine.

We have 381 hardworking men and women on our payroll today. Not a single one will benefit from the doubling